

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 11, 1999

LB 105

communities face, their populations are aging. Those, the elderly populations tend to be, in very many cases, low income. Almost 60 percent of the residents in housing authority properties are elderly. Many are disabled. And so for many communities being able to provide this kind of housing is critical. Some of the bigger communities have been able, through grants that they've gotten from the federal government, to develop some of these public-private partnerships, where some of the smaller communities have not. I do believe that this bill is...is primarily addressing needs in the more...the less populated parts of the state, and that's part of the reason that Senator Jones is the cosponsor of the bill and we've worked together very closely on this legislation. Following my opening, Senator Hartnett is going to explain the committee amendments. As I said, the committee has spent a lot of time working on this legislation. I believe that there are changes that need to be made to the committee amendments and I will have an amendment to the committee amendments which I hope we adopt. It is an amendment that addresses some issues that have been outstanding and we'll address that later. But then I hope we adopt the committee amendments and proceed with the elements of the bill and really talk about what the bill will allow housing authorities to do so that they can continue to provide services especially to some of the elderly population and to the disabled population. And, with that, I would yield the remainder of my opening to Senator Jones.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I want to stand and support this bill strongly for rural area. Last summer I had the opportunity to visit with the Executive Director of the Broken Bow Housing Authority about this bill and what was going to be introduced this year. We visited about how important this was and for...this is what you call LB 105, is a model Housing Agency Act. There is over 7,700 housing units in Nebraska. I was surprised to find out that 56 percent of them was for older people and I think that is growing every day. If you look out across our small communities across this state, they are all growing older and they've got younger people leaving the communities, so this is more in demand all the time, so I think this is a real important issue for rural Nebraska,